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OPCEN 451

TOP SECRET 170857Z CITE [] 3419
PRIORITY []
[] X BX 6723

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1. GENERATION, TAKEOFF, DEPARTURE, RECOVERY, ALL OK. BASE SUPPORT AND TANKER SUPPORT EXCELLENT. A C-133 BLOCKED RUNWAY WITH ONE RETRACTED GEAR TRUCK REQUIRING USE OF SOUTH RUNWAY AND 9000 FEET; OFF ON TIME WITH EVERYTHING OK.

2. ESSA-2 WEATHER LOOKED GOOD ON HER 17/0004Z PASS OVER TARGET AREA. NIMBUS-2 ALSO LOOKED GOOD ON HER 17/0418Z PASS OVER TARGET AREA. STEELBRIDGE WEATHER DETERIORATED BUT CONTACT WAS MADE IN CLEAR AND BULK OF FUEL WAS TAKEN IN HEAVY CIRRUS.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WERE GOOD EXCEPT INTERMITTENT PERIODS OF POOR PROPAGATION. AGAIN [] SUPPORTED BY OPERATION FALLING IN BLANKS. SEL-CALL FAILED TO WORK DURING INITIAL PART OF MISSION BUT STARTED TO WORK LATER ON -- REASONS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT.

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4. PILOT STATED HE TOOK OPTION ON WAY HOME BECAUSE OF 4000 POUNDS BELOW THE CURVE GOING INTO STEELBRIDGE. FORWARD BY-PASS DOOR ON ONE SIDE KEPT COMING OPEN AND IN MY OPINION MOST LIKELY CAUSE OF DEGRADED CURVE. TEMPERATURES WERE HOTTER THAN BRIEFED AT ALTITUDE. WE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING THE INLET PROBLEM. WE ARE NOT FIGHTING PROBLEM OF FLYING ROUTE AS BRIEFED ALTHOUGH IT MAY APPEAR SO TO YOU AT THIS TIME.

5. FUEL GAGE FLUCTUATED TO 79,000 POUNDS ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING FIRST LEG.

6. CAMERA APPEARED NORMAL AND TRANSPORTED 2800 FEET.

7. IN CONCLUSION WE ANTICIPATE GOOD RESULTS FROM TODAY'S

GO; KEEP EM COMING.

TOP SECRET
BT

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